

1 12 school districts that are substantially equal although educational programs
2 may vary from district to district.

3 **[II] * * * Transitional Provisions * * ***

4 **Sec. 3.** TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

5 Is the intent of the General Assembly that Secs. 4 through 15 of this act,
6 which clarify and amend the responsibilities of supervisory unions and school
7 districts, require supervisory unions to work collaboratively, and assess
8 penalties for a district's failure to comply with law, shall assist the State as it
9 transitions to a prekindergarten–grade 12 education system by supporting
10 operational efficiencies, more equitable deployment of resources, and the
11 sharing of best practices.

12 **[a] * * * Supervisory Union and School District Responsibilities * * ***

13 **Sec. 4.** 16 V.S.A. § 268 is added to read:

14 § 268. DUTIES OF A SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD

15 A supervisory union board shall:

16 (1) adopt supervisory union-wide policies, including truancy policies
17 that are consistent with model protocols developed by the Secretary;

18 (2) adopt a supervisory union-wide curriculum that meets the
19 requirements adopted by the State Board under subdivision 165(a)(3)(B) of
20 this title, by either developing the curriculum or directing the superintendent to
21 assist the member districts to develop it jointly;

1 (3) on or before June 30 of each year, adopt a supervisory union budget
2 for the ensuing school year;

3 (4) employ a superintendent pursuant to the provisions of section 270
4 [current § 241]of this title and evaluate and oversee the performance of the
5 superintendent;

6 (5) employ all licensed and nonlicensed employees of the supervisory
7 union pursuant to the provisions of section 271 [current § 242]of this title,
8 including a person or persons qualified to provide financial and student data
9 management services for the supervisory union and the member districts;

10 (6) negotiate with the licensed employees of the supervisory union and
11 school districts, pursuant to chapter 57 of this title, and with other school
12 personnel, pursuant to 21 V.S.A. chapter 22, at the supervisory union level;
13 provided that

14 (i) contract terms may vary by district; and

15 (ii) contracts may include terms facilitating arrangements between
16 or among districts to share the services of teachers, administrators, and other
17 school personnel;

18 (7) pursuant to criteria established by the State Board, establish and
19 direct the superintendent to implement a plan for receiving and disbursing
20 federal and State funds distributed by the Agency, including funds awarded

1 under P.L. 89-10, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as
2 amended.

3 **Sec. 5.** 16 V.S.A. § 269 is added to read:

4 § 269. DUTIES OF A SUPERVISORY UNION

5 (a) A supervisory union shall have sole responsibility to:

6 (1) provide professional development programs or arrange for the
7 provision of them, or both, for teachers, administrators, and staff within the
8 supervisory union, which may include programs offered solely to one school or
9 other component of the entire supervisory union to meet the specific needs or
10 interests of that component; a supervisory union has the discretion to provide
11 financial assistance outside the negotiated agreements for teachers'
12 professional development activities;

13 (2) provide special education services on behalf of the member districts
14 and, except as provided in section 144b of this title, compensatory and
15 remedial services, and provide or coordinate the provision of other educational
16 services as directed by the State Board or local boards;

17 (3) provide all financial and student data management services on behalf
18 of the member districts and serve as the districts' business office and human
19 resources office;

20 (4) provide transportation or contract for the provision of transportation,
21 or both in any districts in which it is offered within the supervisory union;

1 (5) procure and distribute all goods and operational services used by the
2 member districts, including office and classroom supplies and equipment,
3 textbooks, and cleaning materials and services;

4 (6) manage all real property owned or leased by the member school
5 districts and keep the buildings and grounds in good repair, suitably equipped,
6 and in a sanitary condition; and

7 (7) manage all construction projects within the supervisory union.

8 (b) A supervisory union shall submit to the board of each member school
9 district, on or before January 15 of each year, a summary report of financial
10 operations of the supervisory union for the preceding school year, an estimate
11 of its financial operations for the current school year, and a preliminary budget
12 for the supervisory union for the ensuing school year. This requirement shall
13 not apply to a supervisory district. For each school year, the report shall show
14 the actual or estimated amount expended by the supervisory union for special
15 education services, including:

16 (A) a breakdown of that figure showing the amount paid by each
17 school district within the supervisory union; and

18 (B) a summary of the services provided by the supervisory union's
19 use of the expended funds;

20 (c) A supervisory union may provide other appropriate services if requested
21 by a member district, including grant writing and fundraising.

1 **Sec. 6.** 16 V.S.A. § 241 is redesignated and amended to read:

2 § ~~241~~ 270. APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT

3 (a) Each supervisory union or supervisory district board, with the advice of
4 the commissioner, ~~may~~ shall employ a superintendent of schools. A board may
5 fire or choose not to renew a superintendent's contract only with the prior
6 consent of the Secretary. *[added in connection with Sec. 15 –compliance*
7 *penalty]*

8 * * *

9 **Sec. 7.** 16 V.S.A. § 242 is redesignated and amended to read:

10 § ~~242~~ 271. DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENTS

11 The superintendent shall be the chief executive officer for the supervisory
12 union board and for each school board within the supervisory union, and shall:

13 * * *

14 (6) arrange for the provision of the professional training required in
15 subsection 561(b) of this title; ~~and~~

16 (7)(A) ensure implementation of the supervisory union-wide curriculum
17 adopted by the supervisory union board;

18 (B) assist each school in the supervisory union to follow the
19 curriculum; and

1 (2) May take any action, ~~which~~ except actions explicitly reserved to the
2 supervisory union pursuant to chapter 7 of this title, that is required for the
3 sound administration of the school district. The Secretary, with the advice of
4 the Attorney General, upon application of a school board, shall decide whether
5 any action contemplated or taken by a school board under this subdivision is
6 required for the sound administration of the district and is proper under this
7 subdivision. The Secretary's decision shall be final.

8 (3) Shall own and have the possession, ~~care, control and management~~ of
9 the property of the school district, subject to the authority vested in the
10 electorate or any school district official.

11 (4) ~~[Repealed.]~~

12 ~~(5) Shall keep the school buildings and grounds in good repair, suitably~~
13 ~~equipped, insured and in safe and sanitary condition~~ at all times.

14 ~~(5) The school board shall~~ Shall regulate or prohibit firearms or other
15 dangerous or deadly weapons on school premises. At a minimum, a school
16 board shall adopt and implement a policy at least consistent with section 1166
17 of this title and 13 V.S.A. § 4004, relating to a student who brings a firearm to
18 or possesses a firearm at school.

19 (6) Shall have discretion to furnish instruction to pupils who have
20 completed a secondary education and to administer early educational
21 programs.

1 **[b] * * * Collaboration among Supervisory Unions * * ***

2 *[all references in Secs. 12–14 assume enactment of Secs. 4–11]*

3 **Sec. 12.** SUPERVISORY UNION SERVICE REGIONS

4 On or before January 1, 2015, the Secretary of Education shall establish
5 supervisory union service regions, each of which shall be a group of
6 supervisory unions that jointly provide the services as required by 16 V.S.A.
7 § 269(d).

8 *[not sure if Secs. 13 & 14 are supposed to be included as well?]*

9 **Sec. 13.** 16 V.S.A. § 269(d) is added to read:

10 (d) The supervisory unions in each supervisory union service region, as
11 established by the Secretary, shall jointly provide the services required under
12 the following subdivisions of subsection (a) of this section:

- 13 (1) subdivision (1) (professional development);
14 (2) subdivision (4) (transportation); and
15 (3) subdivision (5) (goods and operational services).

16 **Sec. 14.** 16 V.S.A. § 267(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) ~~Supervisory~~ In addition to the joint agreements required in subsection
18 269(d) of this title, supervisory unions, or administrative units not within a
19 supervisory union, in order to provide services cooperatively, may at any
20 annual or special meeting of the supervisory unions, by a majority vote of the
21 directors present and eligible to vote, enter into a joint agreement to provide

1 joint programs, services, facilities, and professional and other staff that are
2 necessary to carry out the desired programs and services.

3 **[add to EFFECTIVE DATE Section]** Secs. 12–14 shall take effect on July 1,
4 2014 and shall apply beginning in academic year 2015–2016.

5 **[c] * * * Financial Penalties; Compliance; Superintendents * * ***

6 **Sec. 15.** 32 V.S.A. § 5401 is amended to read:

7 § 5401. DEFINITIONS

8 As used in this chapter:

9 * * *

10 (13) "District spending adjustment" means the greater of: one or a
11 fraction in which the numerator is the district's education spending plus excess
12 spending plus any compliance penalty , per equalized pupil, for the school
13 year; and the denominator is the base education amount for the school year, as
14 defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001. For a district that pays tuition to a public school
15 or an approved independent school, or both, for all of its resident students in
16 any year and which has decided by a majority vote of its school board to opt
17 into this provision, the district spending adjustment shall be the average of the
18 district spending adjustment calculated under this subdivision for the previous
19 year and for the current year. Any district opting for a two-year average under
20 this subdivision may not opt out of such treatment, and the averaging shall
21 continue until the district no longer qualifies for such treatment.

1 * * *

2 (15) “Compliance penalty” means an amount equal to one percent of a
3 district’s total education spending, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), included
4 in the calculation of a district’s district spending adjustment if the
5 superintendent of the supervisory union of which the district is a member
6 determines, pursuant to criteria established by the State Board of Education,
7 that the district failed to comply with any provision of state or federal law and
8 notifies the Secretary on or before [DATE] of the district’s failure to comply.

9 *[SEE ALSO Secs. 6–7 for related amendments:*

- 10 • *Sec. 6: Secretary must approve firing / nonrenewal of superintendent*
- 11 • *Sec. 7: subdivision (9) – supers ensure compliance / report to Sec.]*

12 *[effective date – applies beginning in what fiscal year?]*

13 **[d] * * * Special Education Funding; Pilot * * ***

14 **Sec. 16.** SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING; ENHANCED MAINSTREAM
15 BLOCK GRANTS; PILOT

16 (a) There is created a pilot program designed to encourage reduced special
17 education expenditures through the use of best practices to provide special
18 education services in the general classroom setting. Pursuant to a process and
19 criteria to be developed by the Secretary of Education, and notwithstanding the
20 provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 2961, the Secretary may designate a total of 24
21 schools in districts within up to four supervisory unions to be eligible to

1 receive an enhanced mainstream block grant (Enhanced Grant) that is **up to 50**
2 percent greater than the amount calculated pursuant to that section in fiscal
3 **[year(s)]**

4 (b) To be eligible for the Enhanced Grant, all districts within a supervisory
5 union shall submit a joint application providing information prescribed by the
6 Secretary on or before **[date]**. The joint application shall

7 (1) describe how the districts will serve students on individual education
8 programs in a general classroom setting using evidence based practices;

9 (2) describe the manner in which the districts shall measure **[student?]**
10 performance; and

11 (3) demonstrate how the use of best practices shall result in reduced
12 expenditures.

13 (c) Receipt of an Enhanced Grant under this section shall not preclude a
14 district from receiving extraordinary services reimbursement or special
15 education expenditures reimbursement under 16 V.S.A. §§ 2962–2963.

16 (d) On or before January 15, 2015 **[and later date?]**, the Secretary shall
17 submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House
18 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance
19 regarding the results of the pilot project and any recommendations for
20 legislative action.

21 (e) This section is repealed on **[date]**.

- 1 • *Should something be added about how groups of districts will be*
2 *selected? (e.g., based on estimated savings? based on who is*
3 *currently the highest spending and so would be best served by*
4 *reducing costs? based on who is not using best practices already?)*
- 5 • *The AOE draft uses the words “up to 50%” – will the percentage*
6 *be based upon the amount of savings?*
- 7 • *If so, will the payment be made based on what they project they*
8 *will save? or will the amount be determined after the fact based on*
9 *how much they actually do save (up to 50%)?*
- 10 • *Is this available for multiple years? Or just one year? If multiple,*
11 *then is it available to the same groups of districts or different*
12 *districts each year?*
- 13 • *Does there need to be an appropriation to cover this? If this is*
14 *going to be paid from ed property taxes raised statewide, then do*
15 *you need to think about the timing so that tax rates are set so that*
16 *they accommodate the additional cost? or can that detail be*
17 *addressed by the process and procedures and schedule the*
18 *Secretary sets up to run this?*
- 19 • *[add to effective date section = passage]*
20

1 **[III] * * * Voluntary Mergers * * ***

2 **Sec. 17.** 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 2(a), as amended by 2012 Acts
3 and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 1, is further amended to read:

4 (a) Program created. There is created a school district merger incentive
5 program under which the incentives outlined in Sec. 4 of this act shall be
6 available to each new unified union school district created pursuant to Sec. 3 of
7 this act and to each new district created under Sec. 3 of this act by the merger
8 of districts that provide education by paying tuition; and to the Vermont
9 members of any new interstate school district if the Vermont members jointly
10 satisfy the size criterion of Sec. 3(a)(1) of this act and the new, merged district
11 meets all other requirements of Sec. 3 of this act. Incentives shall be available,
12 however, only if the ~~effective date of merger is~~ electorate approves the merger
13 on or before July 1, 2017.

14 **Sec. 18.** 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

15 Sec. 3. VOLUNTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGER INCENTIVE
16 PROGRAM

17 (a) Size.

18 (1) School districts, which may include one or more union school
19 districts, may merge to form a union school district pursuant to chapter 11 of
20 Title 16 (a “Regional Education District” or “RED”) that shall have an average

1 daily membership of at least ~~4,250~~ 1,000 or result from the merger of at least
2 four districts, or both.

3 (2) School districts interested in merger may request the state board of
4 education to grant them a waiver from the requirements of subdivision (1) of
5 this subsection, which shall be granted if the districts can demonstrate that the
6 requirements would not be cost-effective, would decrease educational
7 opportunities, or would diminish student achievement, or any combination of
8 these.

9 * * *

10 **Sec. 19.** 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 4, as amended by 2012 Acts
11 and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 13, is further amended to read:

12 Sec. 4. VOLUNTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGER; INCENTIVES

13 * * *

14 (g) Transition facilitation grant.

15 (1) After voter approval of the plan of merger, the commissioner of
16 education shall pay the RED a transition facilitation grant from the education
17 fund equal to the lesser of:

18 (A) five percent of the base education amount established in
19 16 V.S.A. § 4001(13) multiplied by the greater of either the combined
20 enrollment or the average daily membership of the merging districts on
21 October 1 of the year in which the successful vote is taken; or

1 (B) ~~\$150,000.00~~ \$300,000.00.

2 (2) A transition facilitation grant awarded under this subsection (g) shall
3 be reduced by the total amount of reimbursement paid under subsection (e) of
4 this section.

5 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection (g), a
6 transition facilitation grant paid to a modified unified union school district
7 created pursuant to 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 17 shall not exceed
8 \$150,000.00.

9 ~~(h) This section is repealed on July 1, 2017.~~

10 **Sec. 20.** VOLUNTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGER BETWEEN JULY
11 1, 2017 AND JUNE 30, 2019; INCENTIVES

12 (a) July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. A regional education district
13 (RED) approved by the electorate pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A.
14 chapter 11 between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2019 shall be eligible for the
15 incentives provided in **subsections (b)-()** of this section, provided that the
16 RED complies with all other provisions of 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153,
17 Sec. 2(a), as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 1, and as
18 further amended by **Sec. 17** of this act and of 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153,
19 Sec. 3.

20 *[so, as currently drafted, the extended benefits would only be available if the*
21 *districts form a “true RED” and not one of the 3 exceptions]*

1 *[the incentives below in yellow are 1/2 of the incentives provided to a RED*
2 *with a successful vote before July 1, 2017]*

3 (b) Equalized homestead property tax rates or RED incentive grant. A
4 RED's plan of merger shall provide whether, upon merger, the RED shall
5 receive an equalization of its homestead property tax rates during the first four
6 years following merger pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection or an
7 incentive grant during the first year following merger pursuant to subdivision
8 (2).

9 (1)(A) Equalized homestead property tax rates. Subject to the
10 provisions of subdivision (C) of this subdivision (1) and notwithstanding any
11 other provision of law, the RED's equalized homestead property tax rate shall
12 be:

13 (i) decreased by \$0.04 in the first year after the effective date of
14 merger;

15 (ii) decreased by \$0.03 in the second year after the effective date
16 of merger;

17 (iii) decreased by \$0.02 in the third year after the effective date of
18 merger; and

19 (iv) decreased by \$0.01 in the fourth year after the effective date
20 of merger.

1 (B) The household income percentage shall be calculated
2 accordingly.

3 (C) During the years in which a RED’s equalized homestead property
4 tax rate is decreased pursuant to this subsection, the rate for each town within
5 the RED shall not increase or decrease by more than **two and on-half** percent in
6 a single year. The household income percentage shall be calculated
7 accordingly.

8 (2) RED incentive grant. During the first year after the effective date of
9 merger, the Secretary of Education shall pay to the RED board a RED
10 incentive grant from the education fund equal to **\$200.00** per pupil based on
11 the combined enrollment of the participating districts on October 1 of the year
12 in which the successful vote was taken. The grant shall be in addition to funds
13 received under 16 V.S.A. § 4028.

14 (3) Common level of appraisal. Regardless of whether a RED chooses
15 to receive an equalization of its homestead property tax rates or a RED
16 incentive grant, on and after the effective date of merger, the common level of
17 appraisal shall be calculated independently for each town within the RED for
18 purposes of determining the homestead property tax rate for each town.

19 (c) Sale of school buildings.

20 (1) if a RED closes a school building and sells the school building, or an
21 energy saving measure within it as contemplated in 16 V.S.A. § 3448f(g), then

1 neither the RED nor any other entity shall be required to refund a percentage of
2 the sale price to the state pursuant to chapter 123 of Title 16; and

3 (2) if a participating district retains ownership of and closes a school
4 building as part of the electorate-approved plan for merger and the
5 participating district sells the school building or energy saving measure
6 associated with the building, then neither the district nor any other entity shall
7 be required to refund a percentage of the sale price to the State pursuant to
8 chapter 123 of Title 16.

9 (d) Merger support grant; small school support grant. If the merging
10 districts of a RED included at least one “eligible school district,” as defined in
11 16 V.S.A. § 4015, that had received a small school support grant under
12 section 4015 in the fiscal year two years prior to the first fiscal year of merger,
13 then the RED shall be eligible to receive a merger support grant in each of its
14 first five fiscal years in an amount equal to one half of the small school support
15 grant received by the eligible school district in the fiscal year two years prior to
16 the first fiscal year of merger. If more than one merging district was an
17 eligible school district, then the merger support grant shall be in an amount
18 equal to the total of one half of each small school support grant they received
19 in the fiscal year two years prior to the first fiscal year of merger.

20 (e) Consulting services reimbursement grant. From the Education Fund,
21 the Secretary shall pay up to \$10,000.00 to the merger study committee

1 established under 16 V.S.A. § 706 to reimburse the participating districts for
2 legal and other consulting fees necessary for the analysis and report required
3 by 16 V.S.A. § 706b. The study committee shall forward invoices to the
4 Secretary on a quarterly basis. The Secretary shall reimburse one-half of the
5 total amount reflected in each set of invoices and the remaining one-half upon
6 completion of the final report, provided that no payment shall cause the total
7 amount paid to exceed the \$10,000.00 limit. In addition, any transition
8 facilitation grant funds paid to the RED pursuant to subsection (g) of this
9 section shall be reduced by the total amount of reimbursement paid under this
10 subsection (e).

11 (f) Multiyear budgets.

12 (1) In addition to the option of proposing a single-year budget on an
13 annual basis pursuant to the provisions of chapter 11 of Title 16 and
14 notwithstanding any other provision of law, a RED formed pursuant to this
15 section shall have the option to propose one or both of the following:

16 (A) A multiyear budget for the first two fiscal years of its existence
17 that will be included as part of the plan that must be approved by the electorate
18 in order to create the RED.

19 (B) A multiyear budget for the third and fourth fiscal years of its
20 existence that is presented to the electorate for approval at the RED's annual
21 meeting convened in its second fiscal year.

1 (2) The plan presented to the electorate to authorize creation of the RED
2 may contain a provision authorizing the RED, beginning in the fifth fiscal year
3 of its existence to present multiyear proposed budgets to the electorate once in
4 every two or three years.

5 (g) Transition facilitation grant.

6 (1) After voter approval of the plan of merger, the Secretary shall pay
7 the RED a transition facilitation grant from the education fund equal to the
8 lesser of:

9 (A) **two and one-half** percent of the base education amount
10 established in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(13) multiplied by the greater of either the
11 combined enrollment or the average daily membership of the merging districts
12 on October 1 of the year in which the successful vote is taken; or

13 (B) **\$75,000.00 [or \$150,000.00??].**

14 (2) A transition facilitation grant awarded under this subsection (g) shall
15 be reduced by the total amount of reimbursement paid under subsection (e) of
16 this section.

17 **Sec. 21. MERGER SUPPORT GRANT; SMALL SCHOOL SUPPORT**
18 **GRANT**

19 The provisions of 2014 Acts and Resolves No. ____ (H.889) that limit
20 payment of small school support grants under 16 V.S.A. § 4015 to schools that
21 are eligible due to geographic necessity shall not prevent payment of the grants

1 as merger support grants pursuant to 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec.
2 4(d) and subsection 20(d) of this act; provided, however, that the merger
3 support grants shall be used solely to support programs and activities in the
4 small school or schools after transitioning to the new governance structure.

5 **Sec. 22.** EXPEDITED PROCESS; RED FORMATION *[this is a complicated*
6 *concept – any thoughts about whether this is clear and accurate?]*

7 Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. chapter 11 or any other provision of law to the
8 contrary:

9 (1) if:

10 (A) on or before the effective date of this act the electorate of two or
11 more districts voted whether to change their governance structure pursuant to
12 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Secs. 2–4, as amended by 2012 Acts and
13 Resolves No. 156; and

14 (B) one or more of the districts did not vote in favor of the plan of
15 merger (the Plan) presented at the most recent meeting warned to vote on the
16 Plan (the Meeting); and

17 (C) after the effective date of this act and before July 1, 2017, each of
18 the “necessary” districts that did not vote in favor of the Plan at the Meeting
19 votes in favor of the Plan at a meeting warned for that purpose;

20 (2) then:

1 (A) the affirmative votes of the districts that voted in favor of the
2 Plan at the Meeting shall continue without the need to vote again; and

3 (B) the change to the districts’ governance structure shall occur
4 pursuant to terms set forth in the Plan.

5 **Sec. 23.** FINANCIAL PENALTY; FAILURE TO PURSUE VOLUNTARY
6 REALIGNMENT

7 Pursuant to criteria established by the State Board of Education under 3
8 V.S.A. chapter 25, if the Secretary of Education determines that as of [DATE],
9 2017 a district has not [made a serious effort] to move toward realignment of
10 its governance structure pursuant to the statement of intent set forth in Sec. 1 of
11 this act, then the numerator of the district’s fiscal year [YEAR] district
12 spending adjustment calculated under 32 V.S.A. § 5401(13) shall be increased
13 by an amount equal to one percent of the district’s total education spending, as
14 defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6).

15 **Sec. 24.** PROTECTION FOR TUITIONING DISTRICTS AND
16 OPERATING DISTRICTS; STATEMENT OF INTENT

17 Nothing in this act shall be construed to restrict or repeal, or to authorize the
18 restriction or repeal of, the ability of a school district that, as of the effective
19 date of this act, provides for the education of all resident students in one or
20 more grades:

1 (1) by paying tuition on the students’ behalf, to continue to provide
2 education by paying tuition on behalf of all students in the grade or grades; or

3 (2) by operating a school offering the grade or grades, to continue to
4 provide education for all students in the grade or grades by operating a school
5 and not by paying tuition.

6 **Sec. 25.** RED FORMATION PROCESS; AGENCY OF EDUCATION;

7 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

8 (a) The Agency of Education shall provide technical support to districts
9 exploring or engaged in the RED formation process at their request. In
10 addition, the Agency shall revise and add to the existing template developed
11 for use in the RED process to provide meaningful guidance to districts and
12 flexible, alternative models for their use. In addition, the Agency shall develop
13 a technical assistance handbook to support RED formation and the transition to
14 prekindergarten–grade 12 school districts’ statewide. The Agency shall update
15 these materials as necessary until full implementation of the prekindergarten–
16 grade 12 governance structure envisioned by this act.

17 (b) The State Board of Education shall monitor the RED formation process
18 to ensure that **[what?]** .

1 **[IV] * * * Special Fund; Appropriations; Positions * * ***

2 **Sec. 26.** PREKINDERGARTEN–GRADE 12 DISTRICT SPECIAL FUND

3 (a) There is created a special fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7,
4 subchapter 5, comprising sums deposited into this account and interest
5 accruing to the Fund. Any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall
6 be carried forward in the Fund.

7 (b) Monies in the Fund shall be available to the Agency of Education to be
8 used to support the purposes of this act as follows:

9 (1) to support the work of the Agency to provide technical assistance to
10 districts during transition to the prekindergarten–grade 12 governance structure
11 envisioned by this act;

12 (2) to support the work of the State Board of Education during transition
13 to the prekindergarten–grade 12 governance structure envisioned by this act;

14 (3) to reimburse up to \$20,000.00 in fees incurred by groups of districts
15 exploring voluntary realignment pursuant to 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156,
16 Sec. 9; and

17 (4) to pay transition facilitation grants of up to \$300,000.00 to districts
18 pursuant to 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 4(g), as amended by 2012
19 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 13, and further amended by **Sec. 19** of this
20 act.

1 (c) The fund shall be known as the Prekindergarten–Grade 12 District
2 Special Fund.

3 (d) This section and the Fund it creates are repealed on July 1, 2024.

4 **Sec. 27.** POSITIONS; AGENCY OF EDUCATION

5 The General Assembly authorizes the establishment of [#] new limited
6 service positions in the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2015 as follows:
7 [#] analyst positions to provide technical assistance to school districts as they
8 explore the RED formation process and otherwise transition to the
9 prekindergarten–grade 12 governance structure envisioned by this act.

10 **Sec. 28.** TRANSFERS

11 (a) The sum of \$ [REDACTED] is transferred in fiscal year 2014 from the
12 Supplemental Property Tax Relief Fund created by 32 V.S.A. § 6075 to the
13 Prekindergarten–Grade 12 District Special Fund for use in fiscal years 2015
14 and 2016.

15 (b) The sum of \$329,000.00 in unexpended monies appropriated to support
16 the purposes of 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153 and 2012 Acts and Resolves
17 No. 156 is transferred in fiscal year 2014 and may be carried forward to fiscal
18 year 2015 for the purpose of funding the positions and activities authorized
19 under **Secs. 26 and 27** of this act.

1 **Sec. 29.** PREKINDERGARTEN–GRADE 12 DISTRICT

2 APPROPRIATIONS

3 The following sums are appropriated from the Prekindergarten–Grade 12
4 District Special Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2015:

5 (1) the sum of \$ [REDACTED] for personal services;

6 (2) the sum of \$ [REDACTED] for operational expenses; and

7 (3) the sum of \$ [REDACTED] for grant funding for districts.

8 **Sec. 30.** EDUCATION ANALYST; UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS;

9 BUSINESS MANAGER HANDBOOK AND TRAINING;

10 SOFTWARE SPECIFICATIONS

11 Secs. 26–29 of this act are intended to be in addition to, and to work in
12 concert with, those sections of 2014 Acts and Resolves No. _____ (H.889)
13 (education tax) regarding an education analyst who shall create tools and
14 indicators for State and local education decision makers and a contract for
15 development and completion of a uniform chart of accounts; an updated,
16 comprehensive accounting manual, with related business rules, for school
17 district business managers; related training programs; and specifications for
18 school financial software.